

Put the right plants in the right place for a trouble free garden!



Before you plant, look around your yard with an eye towards:

- sunny, shady and partly sunny areas
- “hot spots” on the south or west sides of walls or fences, or next to pavement
- windy or exposed areas
- areas with rocky or compacted soil that needs improvement
- wet or poorly drained areas, runoff or draining downspouts
- slopes that may erode or are difficult to mow
- areas where your plant choice will out grow the space; too close to walls, house, under wires
- dry spots under roof eaves or evergreens

Grow plants that love the Northwest
Choose plants for your yard that will thrive in a Pacific Northwest environment. A plant that is well-suited to its environment will be strong, healthy, and less prone to diseases and pests. Find out whether your plant prefers full sunlight or shade, and plant it where it will get the right amount of light.

Create a garden with diversity

Plant a combination of different types of plants in your yard. By designing a diverse garden you will create a balanced ecosystem which will provide a year round habitat for beneficial insects, birds and other wildlife. The natural balance of insects and wildlife will control insect problems. Using pesticides can upset this natural balance and increase pest problems.

Plant both annuals (plants that live one season only) as well as perennials (plants that live many years) to ensure a stable, year-round home for beneficial insects. It is a good idea to rotate your annual plants each season so that you can

outsmart potential pests and avoid soil-borne diseases. Plant a different crop every season in each bed than was planted there previously.

Include trees and shrubs with berries in your garden plan. They attract birds and offer them a place to perch. Birds help keep pests under control and are a joyful addition to your garden.

Choose plants that thrive without irrigation. Many plants grow beautifully with just the water provided by nature—once they are established in your garden. Plant moisture-loving varieties where soil stays wet. Drought-tolerant plants perform best where soil is dry in the summer. Lawns and vegetables are picky! Healthy lawns and vegetable gardens need well drained soil at least 6 inches deep, and require several hours of direct sun per day. Many shrubs, trees and perennials will grow well in shady or wet spots, but lawns will have constant problems in these conditions. Few vegetables will produce well in shade, or in poorly drained or shallow soil.



MORE INFO
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King County

Department of
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Five Steps to: Natural Yard Care



Build healthy soil



Plant right for your site



Practice smart watering



Think twice before using pesticides



Practice natural lawn care



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Evergreen Shrubs

NAME	SIZE	FLOWER SEASON	SUN / SHADE	FEATURE / HABIT
Sweet Box - <i>Sarcococca ruscifolia</i>	To 6'	Winter	Shade, dry shade	Fragrant flowers in midwinter
Lavender - <i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	1 to 3'	Spring - fall	Sun	Fragrant, very drought tolerant, long flowering season
Cotoneaster - <i>Cotoneaster parnyii</i>	6 to 8'	Summer	Sun, part shade	Persistent red berries, arching form, nice informal hedge
Abelia - <i>Abelia 'grandiflora'</i>	3 to 5'	Spring - fall	Sun, part shade	Delicate pink flowers, bronzy red young leaves
Osmanthus - <i>Osmanthus delavayii</i>	Slow to 6'	Spring	Sun, Shade	Fragrant white flowers, clean foliage, grows in poor soil
Rockrose - <i>Cistus</i> , several	3 to 5'	Spring - summer	Sun	Grey or green foliage, quick growth, drought tolerant, grows in poor soil

Deciduous Shrubs

NAME	SIZE	FLOWER SEASON	SUN / SHADE	FEATURE / HABIT
Spiraea - <i>Spiraea vanhouttei</i> or <i>thunbergii</i>	6'	Spring	Sun, light shade	Many white flowers, arching form, fall color
Bluebeard - <i>Caryopteris clandonensis</i>	2'	Late summer - fall	Sun	Extremely drought tolerant, deep blue flowers
Variegated Red Twig Dogwood <i>Cornus alba 'elegantissima'</i>	TO 10'	Spring	Sun,shade	Tolerates wet clay soils, showy green and white leaves on red stems, spreading habit, fall color, birds attracted to fruit
Ribes sanguineum	5 to 10'	Spring	Sun,shade	Red Flowering Currant - Magenta flowers, edible powder - blue berries
Viburnum 'Dawn' - <i>Viburnum bodnantense</i>	to 10'	winter	Sun, part shade	Fragrant pink flowers, striking foliage

Evergreen Trees

NAME	SIZE	FLOWER SEASON	SUN / SHADE	FEATURE / HABIT
Portugal Laurel - <i>Prunus lusitanica</i>	To 20' or more	Late spring	Sun,shade	Dark green foliage on red stems, makes dense hedge
Hollywood Juniper - <i>juniperus chinensis 'Torulosa'</i>	To 15'	-	Sun	Interesting form, dense hedge
Photinia - <i>Photinia fraseri</i>	To 10'	Spring	Sun, part shade	New growth bronze red, showy
Strawberry Tree - <i>Arbutus unedo 'Compacta'</i>	To 10'	Fall	Sun, part shade	Branches have reddish - brown bark, attractive, edible fruit

Trouble-free plants for the Pacific Northwest The plants described here have been chosen because they resist diseases and pests naturally. They are all attractive varieties available in local nurseries. A healthy plant is the best defense against pests and disease. Check with your nursery for other trouble - free plants.

Deciduous Trees

NAME	SIZE	FLOWER SEASON	SUN / SHADE	FEATURE / HABIT
Service Berry - Amelancier grandiflora 'Robin Hill' or 'Autumn Brilliance'	To 25'	Spring	Sun, part shade	Showy flowers, fall color, edible fruit, open form
Katsura - Cercidiphyllum japonicum	40 - 60'	-	Sun, part shade	Autumn color and fragrance, needs lots of water to get established
Sweet Gum - Liquidambar styraciflua	To 40 - 60', - 25' wide		Sun	Colorful leaves in the fall
Japanese Snowbell - Styra japonica	To 20'	Early summer	Sun, part shade	Hanging, fragrant white flowers, clean foliage, graceful form, needs lots of water to get established

Roses

NOTE: These roses perform well without succumbing to blackspot, powdery mildew, or rust, although all may show some symptoms of these diseases. Plant them where they get plenty of sun and good air circulation. Give them rich soil, steady water, and a complete organic fertilizer in spring for healthiest plants.

NAME	TYPE	CHARACTERISTICS
Cecile Brunner	polyantha	multiple pale pink flowers
Queen Elizabeth	hybrid tea	large deep pink flowers
Sexy Remy	floribunda	striking big pink flowers
Souvenir de la Malmaison	old rose	shrubby, pink flowers
Rosa rugosa	shrub	magenta or white flowers, edible fruit
Altissimo	climber	deep red
Europeana	floribunda	dark red
Fantini la Tour		lavender
Fragrant Cloud		red - orange, stunning fragrance
Just Joey	hybrid tea	big orange blooms
Climbing America	climber	orange
Iceberg	floribunda	vigorous white blooms
Pascali	hybrid tea	pristine white

Rhododendrons

These varieties are not prone to powdery mildew and are resistant to root weevil .

NAME	COLOR	CHARACTERISTICS
PJM	lavender	small leaves, small flowers
Oceanlake	medium blue	low - growing
Cilpinese	apple blossom pink, fading to white	early flowers
Dora Amateis	white	nearly covered in flowers when blooming
Rose Elf	white, flushed violet - pink	dwarf variety with many blooms
Sapphire	blue	small, round, dense shrublet



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Apple

A tasty apple is less appealing when dotted with scab or sprayed with pesticides. Apple varieties naturally resistant to the disfiguring problems of apple scab and to powdery mildew include:

NAME	CHARACTERISTICS
Liberty	medium - size, dark red, intensely flavored, October
Akane	firm, crisp, September eating apple
Spartan	red, similar to Liberty, October
Prima	highly disease resistant, good crisp apple for fresh eating

Vegetables

EASIEST TO GROW INCLUDE:

Onions and friends:	Leeks, shallots, chives, garlic, scallions, and onions
Greens:	Lettuce, mustards, bok choy, arugula, kale, collards, chard, buckwheat greens, and red or green orach
Beans and peas:	Both bush and pole types; look for "enation - resistant" varieties
Squash:	Summer and winter squash, and cucumbers
Potatoes:	All varieties; early, mid, late
Miscellaneous:	Sunflowers, Miner's lettuce, and rhubarb

NOTE: For resistant vegetable varieties, order Seattle Food Garden Fact Sheet No. 25: Recommended Vegetable Cultivar Descriptions, by calling WSU Cooperative Extension King County at (206)296-3900

Culinary Herbs

All the herbs listed below will grow with very little special care

ANNUAL	BIENNIAL	PERENNIAL		
cilantro	chicory*	oregano*	sorrel*	lovage
cress	anise hyssop	rosemary*	chives*	Sweet Cicely*
dill	caraway	sage*	garlic chives	lemon balm*
summer savory	parsley	thyme*	mint	Roman chamomile*

* Plants are drought tolerant once established

Source: King County Local Hazardous Waste Management Program

For more information visit:

<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/pi/go-native/plant-list.htm> or
<http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste/house/yard/troublefree.cfm>

This material will be provided in alternate formats upon request.